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- a primary rear surface that is substantially planar;  
 at least one rib elevated from said primary rear surface  
 such that the depth of the rib is adapted to be approxi-  
 mately 25% to 300% of the thickness of the backing  
 panel from said primary rear surface to the closest point  
 of a facing panel when assembled together as a panel-  
 ing unit; and  
 at least one drainage groove relative to said primary rear  
 surface and adjacent to said at least one rib.
2. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein said at least one  
 rib is approximately 0.5 to 1.5 inches from a center of said  
 at least one drainage groove.
3. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein said at least one  
 rib extends between a pair of said drainage grooves.
4. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein said at least one  
 drainage groove extends from an edge of said backing panel  
 to another edge of said backing panel.
5. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein said at least one  
 rib has an upper surface that is substantially parallel to said  
 primary rear surface.
6. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein a plurality of said  
 ribs are spaced about every 1.5 to 16 inches.
7. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein said at least one  
 rib is adapted to extend at approximately zero degrees from  
 vertical when said backing panel is horizontally installed on  
 an underlying structure.
8. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein said at least one  
 rib has a depth of approximately 0.25 to 2 inches.
9. The backing panel of claim 8 wherein said at least one  
 rib has a depth of approximately 0.75 inch.
10. The backing panel of claim 1 wherein said at least one  
 rib has a width of approximately 0.5 to 2 inches.
11. A backing panel for a paneling unit comprising a  
 facing panel, said backing panel comprising:  
 a primary rear surface that is substantially planar; and  
 at least one rib elevated from said primary rear surface  
 such that the depth of the rib is adapted to be approxi-  
 mately 25% to 300% of the thickness of the backing  
 panel from said primary rear surface to the closest point  
 of a facing panel when assembled together as a panel-  
 ing unit; and  
 at least one drainage groove relative to said primary rear  
 surface;  
 wherein said at least one rib is substantially parallel to  
 said at least one drainage groove.
12. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one rib has an upper surface that is substantially parallel to  
 said primary rear surface.
13. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one drainage groove is adjacent to said at least one rib.

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14. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one rib is adapted to extend at approximately zero degrees  
 from vertical when said backing panel is horizontally  
 installed on an underlying structure.
15. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one rib has a depth of approximately 0.25 to 2 inches.
16. The backing panel of claim 15 wherein said at least  
 one rib has a depth of approximately 0.75 inch.
17. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one rib has a width of approximately 0.5 to 2 inches.
18. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one rib is approximately 0.5 to 1.5 inches from a center of  
 said at least one drainage groove.
19. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one rib extends between a pair of said drainage grooves.
20. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein said at least  
 one drainage groove extends from an edge of said backing  
 panel to another edge of said backing panel.
21. The backing panel of claim 11 wherein a plurality of  
 said ribs are spaced about every 1.5 to 16 inches.
22. A backing panel for a paneling unit comprising a  
 facing panel, said backing panel comprising:  
 a primary rear surface that is substantially planar;  
 at least one rib elevated from said primary rear surface  
 such that the depth of said rib is adapted to be approxi-  
 mately 25% to 300% of the thickness of the backing  
 panel from said primary rear surface to the closest point  
 of a facing panel when assembled together as a panel-  
 ing unit; and  
 at least one drainage groove relative to said primary rear  
 surface, said at least one rib and said at least one  
 drainage groove extending from a top edge to a bottom  
 channel of said backing panel;  
 wherein said at least one rib and said at least one drainage  
 groove are substantially parallel.
23. The backing panel of claim 22 wherein said at least  
 one rib has an upper surface that is substantially parallel to  
 said primary rear surface.
24. The backing panel of claim 22 wherein a plurality of  
 said ribs are spaced about every 1.5 to 16 inches.
25. The backing panel of claim 22 wherein:  
 said at least one rib does not extend into said bottom  
 channel; and  
 said at least one drainage groove extends into said bottom  
 channel.
26. The backing panel of claim 22 wherein said at least  
 one rib extends between a pair of said drainage grooves.
27. The backing panel of claim 22 wherein said at least  
 one rib has a depth of approximately 0.25 to 2 inches and a  
 width of approximately 0.5 to 2 inches.

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